

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

Please add the following paragraph at page 31:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

B1 The present invention relates to monoclonal antibodies against the human Mcm3 protein, hybridoma cell lines that produce such antibodies, procedures for the production and their use, pharmaceutical compositions comprising a monoclonal antibody according to the present invention, their use for the prevention and treating of certain diseases as well as methods relating to the prevention and treatment of diseases associated with Mcm3 expression. Monoclonal antibodies according to the invention detect and bind human Mcm3 monospecifically both in immunohistological and immunobiochemical detection systems. The process for the production of these monoclonal antibodies comprises an initial screening of excess hybridoma supernatant with immunobiochemical methods followed by a second screening of positive hybridoma by means of an immunohistochemical method.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 16 through 23 with the following paragraph:

B2 Also, within the scope of the invention are methods for treating diseases or disorders which are associated with an aberrant Mcm3 level or activity or which can benefit from modulation of the activity or level of Mcm3. The methods comprise administering, e.g., either locally or systemically to a subject, a pharmaceutically effective amount of a composition comprising an Mcm3 antibody according to the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 27 through 34 with the following paragraph:

B3 The Figure shows a Western Blot using a monoclonal antibody according to the present invention (right side) and a polyclonal antibody known in the art (left side). It is clearly demonstrated that the antibody according to the present invention recognises only one band while the polyclonal antibody detects further bands in the range of 90 to 50 kDa. H denotes HeLa cells and C denotes CHO cells.

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 22 through 27 with the following paragraph:

b4
A hybridoma cell line producing a preferred monoclonal antibody of the present invention, namely, a monoclonal mouse antibody with said above-mentioned detection, was deposited at the Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ), Mascheroder Weg 1b, D-38124, Braunschweig, Germany under Accession No. DSM ACC2388 on February 16, 1999.

Please replace the paragraph at page 5, lines 11 through 14 with the following paragraph:

b5
A disease, a disorder or condition "associated with" or "characterized by" an aberrant Mcm3 activity refers to a disease, disorder or condition in a subject which is caused by or contributed to by an aberrant Mcm3 activity.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, line 27 through page 15, line 7 with the following paragraph:

b6
Performing combined staining of tissues detecting the three proteins simultaneously, allow a more detained assessment of cell proliferation and differentiation processes that determine individual tumor growth. Mcm3 protein is expressed in cells that have ceased to proliferate, but are not terminally differentiated according to the absence of p27 protein expression, whereas Ki-67 is expressed in proliferating cells only. P27 can be found in quiescent cells but not in proliferating cells. Ki-67, Mcm3 and p27 provide one set of parameters which define complementary biological properties that are suitable for a detailed characterization of disordered cell growth and tumorigenesis. Tumor diagnostics may also benefit from a combined assessment of these markers which may be of help to choose the most appropriate therapy concept for an individual patient.

Please replace the paragraph at page 17, lines 26 through 33 with the following paragraph:

b7
Hybridoma which were positive both in the spot-blot and in immunohistology, were cloned and recloned until they were monoclonal. Independent monoclonal antibodies were obtained. A hybridoma cell producing a monoclonal antibody according to the invention was